

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 8, 15, 32, 39, 43, 49-51 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 1, 56, and 59 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 25 and 52-59 are now pending in this application. In response to the outstanding office action, Applicant corrected the status identifier of claims 8, 15, 32, 39, 43, and 49-51 to indicate that these claims were cancelled, not withdrawn.

Applicant notes that the Examiner apparently accidentally failed to examine pending claim 52. In the outstanding action, the Examiner noted claim 52 was added by the previous amendment, but the Examiner only indicated that claims 1, 25, and 53-59 were pending. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and examine claim 52.

Applicant has amended claim 56 to correct the misspelling noted by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 25, 53, and 55-59 stand rejected. Claim 54 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Honkala and Bridgelall further in view of Lobinger.

In the outstanding office action, the Examiner alleges that Honkala discloses all of the elements of the independent claims (claims 1 and 25) except the feature that the information is in beacons from access points. The Examiner alleges that Bridgelall discloses that access points broadcast their information/identity in regularly scheduled beacons. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

According to the Honkala reference, the whole handover process is decided and controlled by a fixed network controller (i.e. Radio Access Gateway, see, for example, p. 17, lines 19-27). Also the information used for deciding on the handover is detected on the network side.

In contrast, the claims of the subject application make it clear that the responsibility to decide on and control the handover between a first technology network and a second technology network is handled by the mobile node, and information for deciding on the handover is detected by the mobile node. Thus, according to the claims of the subject application, a system is provided in which two technology networks can be operated by different operators, and the operators do not have to have any knowledge of the topology of the other network. In fact, claim 25 of the subject application specifically recites a mobile node having a deciding unit to decide on a handover procedure. Nothing in Honkala discloses or suggests a system in which the mobile node which detects information used for deciding on the handover and is responsible for deciding on and controlling handover between to different technology networks.

Bridgelall describes a mobile station (MS) which is able to vertically roam in either direction between two different networks, such as WWAN and WLAN. The MS is equipped with a dual mode radio for WWAN and WLAN transmissions. The WLAN radio is linked to a WLAN Enterprise Gateway Controller (EGC) via a first air link and the WWAN radio is linked to a WWAN Base Transceiver Station (BTS) via a second air link. Moreover, in the paragraph bridging columns 8 and 9, Bridgelall describes a process for connecting the mobile station to an access point. The access point sends out beacons announcing identify and location information that the mobile station needs to locate a network. After detecting the beacon the mobile station may begin negotiating a connection.

Bridgelall is concerned with automatic and seamless vertical roaming between a WLAN and a WWAN by detecting second network availability for switching over while maintaining an active voice or data connection on the first network so that the existing connection is maintained and the transition is continuous. However, Bridgelall does not

disclose or suggest a decision on handover, and least of all a decision on handover based on beacons or border information in beacons.

In column 15, lines 43-61, Bridgelall describes that a user/application may switch or roam to a specific network based on knowledge of the network physical location using GPS or RTLS. This statement further teaches away from a switching/roaming decision performed by a mobile station based on border information in beacons of access nodes detected by the mobile station. As such, neither Bridgelall nor Honkala, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a handover decision performed by a mobile station based on border information in beacons of access nodes detected by the mobile station.

Moreover, the Verma reference does not disclose or suggest that a mobile node automatically (i.e. without any user interaction) decides on a handover procedure based on border information in beacons which is detected automatically (i.e. without any user interaction) by the mobile node. Therefore, neither Honkala, Bridgelall, nor Verma either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a handover decision performed by a mobile station based on border information in beacons of access nodes detected by the mobile station.

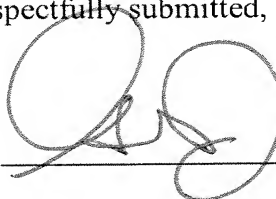
Based on the above arguments and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding office action. Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are

needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Peter Albert Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

By

Date OCTOBER 29, 2007

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 30542
Telephone: (858) 847-6735
Facsimile: (858) 792-6773

G. Peter Albert Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,268